

Dear State Representative Haddad,

I think the minimum wage law should be raised from \$8.25 to \$9.05. One reason I think that we should increase the minimum wage is so that families in Connecticut that depend on the minimum wages that the adults earn have more money to pay the bills, food, clothes, and other necessities. Another reason for raising minimum wage is to strengthen the economy. Former President Clinton raised the minimum wage to "Strengthen America's Families". You can do the same, if you raise the minimum wage law from \$8.25 to \$9.05. Also, I think that Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), which requires employers to comply with minimum-wage requirements should be change so that every company follows the Fair Labor Standards Act. (Only employers who are engaged in interstate or foreign commerce and whose gross yearly sales total or exceed \$500,000 are required to comply with the Act) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Title VII prohibits employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or gender in all aspects of employment -- from recruitment through termination. The state government should change that act to be similar to the Equal Pay Act, which only requires women and men to be paid the same amount, but have it apply to race and religion as well. Changing these two laws can help increase standard of living and work quality.

First of all, if families have more money to spend, instead of depending on charities and other helpful organizations for food and money, they can be independent of help from charities, and earn the needed money themselves. Most families that depend on their minimum wage earn less than enough for food, clothes, and housing, making them dependent on financial aid. If the minimum wage law were higher, then all the food and money used for food banks and local charities could help the even more needy children in Africa and other third world countries. Financial problems are often what tears families apart. You can stop this if you persuaded other people to raise our state minimum wage law. Also, most people who work for minimum wage are teenagers and women. Teenagers need more money to go to college, buy a car, and other things that are important to them. Women need the income for their families. Connecticut already has the fourth highest minimum wage law in the country. If you just increased it by a mere 80 cents then we would have the highest minimum wage in the country. If Connecticut families got bigger incomes, then they could be more prosperous and happier.

Second of all, if there were a higher minimum wage, it would make businesses more efficient, because people would be willing to work harder, knowing that the company that they work for will not cheat them out of money. If companies produced goods with better quality, than we could compete with countries all over the world, except we wouldn't be known for cheapness, we'd be known for quality. It would increase the standard of living and persuade more people to work legally instead of going into the drug trade etc.

Third of all, if families and Connecticut residents had more money, they would spend more money, improving the economy. An economy depends on consumers. If we had more consumers with more money, then the economy would be more profitable, and would earn more money. People are earning less money because of the bad economy. A higher minimum

wage law would not only help the people who work for minimum wage, but people who depend on the economy, which is everyone.

In conclusion, I think that you should raise the minimum wage by from \$8.25 to \$9.05, so everyone can be without financial aid, and to make Connecticut families happier. Also, if people earned more money to spend the economy would be in a much better shape. , I think that Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), which requires employers to comply with minimum-wage requirements should change so that every company follows the Fair Labor Standards Act Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or gender in all aspects of employment -- from recruitment through termination. The state government should change that Act to be similar to the Equal Pay Act, which only requires women and men to be paid the same amount, but have it apply to race and religion as well.

Sincerely,

Alice Hu, Student

from MMS